

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

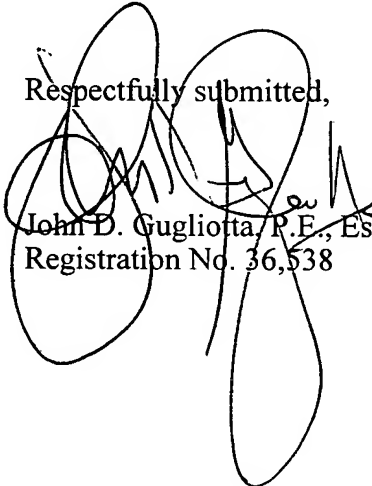
Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Before entry of the present amendment, Claims 1 and 3-19 were pending. Claims 11-13, 15-16, and 18-19 are considered patentably distinct over the prior art cited, and therefore are allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the rejected base claim.

This has been attempted.

Further, any rejected claims have been canceled, without prejudice. Therefore, in view of foregoing amendments and clarifications, the applicant submits that allowance of the present application and all remaining claims, as amended, is in order and a formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,


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